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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/Israel/Syria

DATE DISTR. 3 December 1948

SUBJECT Delivery of Czechoslovak Arms to Israel and Syria

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE 25X1A6a
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X6

1. Previous shipments of Czechoslovak weapons to Israel have included ten Messerschmitt planes and large numbers of "Bren-type" guns, flame throwers, and "twin-barrelled Kachin" guns. Deliveries were originally made by freight-carrying Dakotas of Czech air lines flying from Athens to Haifa. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Presumably Czech State Air Line.)
2. When the Greek Government insisted that all planes landing at Athens be examined, the Czechs substituted two Constellations to fly directly to Palestine from an airfield near Zatec in northwestern Bohemia. Source states that one plane was loaded at this field on 17 August. Each Constellation can carry two Messerschmitts, according to source.
3. Source states that the Czechs supplied arms to Syria before the Palestine war, but not to any other Arab state. A ship bound for Beirut or Tripoli and carrying arms for Syria was sunk on 8 May 1948 fifteen miles from Split, Yugoslavia; the Czechs believe that the Jews sank the ship.

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Excluded From Release Date: 2006

Document No. 6
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
DRA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DEA REG. 77/1763
Date: 1 MAY 1979 By: 073

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB	DISTRIBUTION																
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